

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides for a proxy object that aids in returning a set of column names in a relational database. A predetermined method may be called which returns the proxy object, the proxy object representing a table in the relational database. The proxy object may be recursive, such that it may contain references to other proxy objects, as well as to column proxy objects, which represent individual columns in the database. Accessing the column proxy object then allows an object-oriented language program to retrieve a column name and therefore access individual columns in the relational database without forehand knowledge of the column names. The calls to the methods returning the proxy objects will typically never change, and if column names are changed, deleted, or added, these changes can be easily handled if a database provider maintains the column proxy object by having the database provider update the proxy object(s).